WE CLAIM:

1. A method of treatment of allergic asthma in a patient comprising administering to the patient a maintenance dose of an IgE antagonist and, optionally, a loading dose of the IgE antagonist.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintenance dose is repeated at intervals of about 1 to about 90 days.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the maintenance dose is repeated weekly.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the maintenance dose is repeated biweekly.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the IgE antagonist is an anti-IgE antibody.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody is chimeric.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the antibody is humanized.

8. The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody is a human antibody.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the antagonist binds to soluble IgE and blocks the binding of IgE to the IgE receptor on basophils.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein the antibody binds to soluble IgE and blocks the binding of IgE to the IgE receptor on basophils.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the loading dose is administered before onset of asthma symptoms.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the loading dose is administered after the onset of asthma symptoms.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the loading dose is greater than the maintenance dose.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is administered in a formulation comprising a buffer, a salt, optionally, a polyol, and optionally, a preservative.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the antagonist is freeze-dried, then reconstituted before administration.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose reduce the concentration of free IgE in the patient's serum to less than about 40 ng/ml.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintenance dose of antagonist is about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week/baseline IgE IU/ml.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose, results in a total serum concentration of antagonist of about 1 to 10 times greater than the patient's total serum IgE concentration.

19. A method for treating allergic asthma in a patient comprising administering to the patient a dose of IgE antagonist averaging about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week IgE antagonist for every IU/ml baseline IgE in the patient's serum.

20. A method of reducing the late asthmatic response in a patient comprising administering to the patient a maintenance dose of an IgE antagonist and, optionally, a loading dose of the IgE antagonist.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose reduce the concentration of free IgE in the patient's serum to less than about 40 ng/ml.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose, results in a total serum concentration of antagonist of about 1 to 10 times greater than the patient's total serum IgE concentration.

23. A method of reducing the late asthmatic response in a patient comprising administering to the patient a dose of IgE antagonist averaging about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week IgE antagonist for every IU/ml baseline IgE in the patient's serum.

24. A method of reducing the early asthmatic response in a patient comprising administering to the patient a maintenance dose of an IgE antagonist and, optionally, a loading dose of the IgE antagonist.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose reduce the concentration of free IgE in the patient's serum to less than about 40 ng/ml.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose, results in a total serum concentration of antagonist of about 1 to 10 times greater than the patient's total serum IgE concentration.

27. A method of reducing the early asthmatic response in a patient comprising administering to the patient a dose of IgE antagonist averaging about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week IgE antagonist for every IU/ml baseline IgE in the patient's serum.

28. A method of reducing bronchial hyperreactivity in a patient comprising administering to the patient a maintenance dose of an IgE antagonist and, optionally, a loading dose of the IgE antagonist.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose reduce the concentration of free IgE in the patient's serum to less than about 40 ng/ml.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose, results in a total serum concentration of antagonist of about 1 to 10 times greater than the patient's total serum IgE concentration.

31. A method of reducing bronchial hyperreactivity in a patient comprising administering to the patient a dose of IgE antagonist averaging about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week IgE antagonist for every IU/ml baseline IgE in the patient's serum.

32. A method of reducing skin reactivity in a patient comprising administering to the patient a maintenance dose of an IgE antagonist and, optionally, a loading dose of the IgE antagonist.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose reduce the concentration of free IgE in the patient's serum to less than about 40 ng/ml.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose, results in a total serum

concentration of antagonist of about 1 to 10 times greater than the patient's total serum IgE concentration.

35. A method of reducing skin reactivity in a patient comprising administering to the patient a dose of IgE antagonist averaging about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week IgE antagonist for every IU/ml baseline IgE in the patient's serum.

36. A method of reducing lung inflammation in a patient comprising administering to the patient a maintenance dose of an IgE antagonist and, optionally, a loading dose of the IgE antagonist..

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose reduce the concentration of free IgE in the patient's serum to less than about 40 ng/ml.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the maintenance dose, and optionally, the loading dose, results in a total serum concentration of antagonist of about 1 to 10 times greater than the patient's total serum IgE concentration.

39. A method of reducing lung inflammation in a patient comprising administering to the patient a dose of IgE antagonist averaging about 0.001 to 0.01 mg/kg/week IgE antagonist for every IU/ml baseline IgE in the patient's serum.